
Lifelong Learning Institute Newsletters

Fall 2011

The LLI Chronicle Volume 2 Number 8

Nova Southeastern University

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LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 8

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FALL 2011

Scene and Heard: Review of Welcome Week

Welcome Week was a successful introduction to visitors considering joining the Lifelong Learning Institute for the 2011-12 NSU academic year. One of the university's founders and former president, Dr. Abraham Fischler, recalled how the campus grew from one building in the Rolling Hills and Green Acres communities located off of University Drive and 30th Street to the over 16 buildings which house educational centers ranging from the health professions to oceanography. Today, the university has 16 schools, colleges, and centers. The Fischler School of Education and Human Services, named for Dr. Fischler, is the largest with over 15,000 graduates.

NSU President Dr. George Hanbury spoke about the future of the university. By the year 2020, he predicts that NSU will be recognized for its academic excellence in the community of higher education and achieve status as a premier university. The NSU Oceanographic Center is already internationally known for advanced research. Last year, the Oceanographic Center received a \$15 million stimulus grant from the federal government toward the construction of the nation's largest coral reef research center. The university plans to open the Center of Excellence in Coral Reef Ecosystems in June 2012.

Welcome Week introductions highlighted how the role of the Lifelong Learning Institute and other social and educational communities for aging adults in the United States will become more important in years to come. The prospects of educating people over the age of 65 years of age are expected to increase. Currently, this age group represents over 12.4 percent of the American population. By the year 2030, over 21 percent of Americans will be over 65. The input and collaboration from today's LLI members helps the university prepare to serve our expanding population. Among the featured speakers during Welcome Week were presentations and previews of classes given by instructors Dustin Berna, Ph.D., Marlisa Santos, Ph.D., Eli Kavon, David Yuen, Valerie Pellegrini, and David Snellen.

Eli Kavon explained that his series, "**Religion and the State**," will deal with how society changed throughout history as various religious and political views transformed our states and systems. Some topics of discussion will be the influences of communism, state dictatorships, and clashes of culture and religion such as Judaism vs. Muslim extremism.

David Yuen previewed his presentations of "**French and Spanish Opera Selections**," including Placido Domingo, "La Rondine," "Rigoletto," and "Romeo et Juliette," the

Shakespearean classic by Shale Gounod, and "Manon" by Jules Massenet.

Valerie Pellegrini explained how the **Socrates Café** group she leads is an extension of philosophical discussion on topics relating to exploring life's conditions and the search for meaning. The format of topic selection combined with three- or four-minute contributions from group members is conducive to thinking outside of the box.

Welcome Week attendees also had opportunities to hear lectures from regularly featured professors Judith Etzion, Ph.D., and Vincent Toscano, Ph.D., about the upcoming topics they will cover this year in their classical music and "**Hollywood Presents History**" classes, respectively. Visitors were also treated to introductions to the member-generated activities of Edith Bergman (Great Books) and Maxine Jordan (Writer's Workshop), which are group exercises that further enhance skills and comprehension.

For **Great Books** sessions, members select readings of their choice from the *Omnibus Short Story* resource text. Bergman will facilitate meetings where participants exchange ideas about their short-story choices. Questions will be posed to readers, which generate thought-provoking discussions.

LLI members who already participate in the **Writer's Workshop** led by Jordan presented testimonials on their experiences developing composition skills. Morris Weiner told how he was encouraged to write his memoir *The Day Camelot Was Lost*. Lee Sacks discussed a story he submitted dealing with Jewish persecution. Dennis Simunek praised Jordan as a writing guide, citing her openness to workshop movie critiques and the constructive feedback she offers on profiles he writes for the *LLI Newsletter*.

Members and instructors put extra effort into Welcome Week with the hope that these interactive and engaging presentations will provide the impetus for greater participation of all the offerings made possible by the Lifelong Learning Institute staff. Members are also grateful for the enthusiastic services of Linda Maurice and Heike Dosé. Thank you for coordinating another fantastic introduction for potential new LLI members.

Thank you to all the wonderful, enthusiastic LLI and Members Advisory Committee members who volunteered throughout Welcome Week and helped make it one of the most successful to date.

Welcome Week



Profiles

Linda Hamilton Senior Fitness Instructor

Linda Hamilton joined the LLI group of fitness instructors this year. She brings an extremely positive and spiritual outlook to everything she does. "I love God and live a purposeful life, including family, friends, and my work."

She is a part-time assistant to Barbara Norgren, our primary instructor. Hamilton has been married to her husband Joel for over 21 years. Her 17-year-old daughter, Natalie Rose, is already in her second year of college and has ambitious plans to be a neurosurgeon. Like her daughter, Hamilton followed her interests into the medical field. Her first career was nursing, but she loves her second calling—teaching fitness—much more. She describes her work as an instructor as a "passion to practice exercise as a means to improve seniors' health in strength, range of motion, balance, bone density, and mental clarity." Considering the opportunities she has at this stage of her life, "All of this puts a smile on my face," she admitted.

Morris H. Weiner Member of LLI Members Advisory Committee (MAC)

Morris "Mo" Weiner was a professional national sales manager for a security company that manufactured card reader systems, produced photo I.D.'s, serviced closed circuit television, and developed visual computer systems for businesses. He joined the Lifelong Learning Institute when he retired to continue his physical and mental development with his vigorous vitality. Weiner also enjoys furthering his educational experience through the programs and classes offered throughout Nova Southeastern University.

Morris and his wife Sheila have two children: Shari (52) and Mark (50). They have three grandchildren—Brian, Courtney, and Michael—from their son-in-law Howard and his wife, Christie.

Weiner felt a passion for the sport of softball all his life and participated in softball leagues for 20 years. However, he had to give up this sport when he contracted a debilitating condition called spinal stenosis. He is currently being treated for this ailment through regular chiropractic sessions and stretching therapy.

In his MAC involvement, Weiner is seeking to improve and expand the programs and offerings available to LLI members. According to Weiner, this work is important to "grow the program."

The Great Books Program

by Edith Bergman

Our Great Books/Shared Inquiry Program is part of a national organization that was established over 50 years ago at the University of Chicago. It is recognized as an educational and pleasurable pastime in groups across the country. We rely on selections from books recommended by the program. This year we have been using the *Short Story Omnibus*, which contains short stories, novellas, and graphic tales.

We meet once a month to discuss the reading and all its implied meanings. We hope all the members will have read the selection so that the questions and answers can flow smoothly. However, even nonmembers are welcome to attend because after the initial discussion, many relevant topics are brought up by anyone who participates. On October 27, we reviewed *The Wall* by Jean-Paul Sartre. Please join us for future discussions.

Writer's Workshop Begins 17th Year

by Maxine Jordan

October 20 marked the first session of the workshop's 17th year.

Iris Debb began the readings with her memoir *Our First Thanksgiving*, prompting audience members to recall their own earlier holidays. Donald Siegendorf then introduced his newest novel, taking readers into a highly imaginative fantasy world. He'll introduce future chapters to the group during the year.

Rick La Valley took the audience back 36 years by revisiting an exciting cruise along Miami waterways. Dennis Simunek contributed *A Dog Bite Dilemma* involving his daughter's pet dog, Gaia. Lee Sacks then read part one of *The Blessing*, his newest creative effort, with parts two and three to be offered in future months. Edith Bergman concluded the session with *My Early Teaching Career*, sharing her dream and realization of teaching kindergarten.

The November workshop will take place on Thursday, November 8 from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Why not tell your story? All LLI members are invited to attend as contributing writers or just visitors.



Members Advisory Committee Election News

In October, the one-year terms of three MAC members—Edith Bergman, Joy Gallimore, and Alan Neuman—were completed. We thank them for their dedicated service this past year. In member elections, the following people were elected (or reelected) to a new term on the MAC: Rudy Ameerally, Joy Gallimore, and Dan Smith.

LLI Welcomes New Members

Sy Bassen	Rick LaValley
Kathy Bicos	Adrienne Miller
Paul Brown	Diana Remick
Anita Camerik	Aurelio Reyes
Merrily Digirolamo	Willis Ross
Sandra Doepp	Gail Shannon
Marion Green	Louis Shelley
Lenny Greenstein	Eli Wilk
Barry Katz	Maddy Wilk
Claire Lang	

The Lifelong Learning Institute Tribute Fund

HONOR — REMEMBER — SUPPORT

The 2011-12 LLI academic year has seen the launch of a new tribute program designed to provide members with a format to honor or remember friends or loved ones. Additionally, tributes can be directed toward general support, scholarships, or the speakers fund of the Lifelong Learning Institute.

In October, the LLI received the following donations:

Lee Sacks in memory of Florence M. Ross

Anonymous in support of the LLI speakers program

*Linda Maurice in honor of Joy, Rudy,
and Dan's election to the MAC*

*Broward Coalition on Aging Outreach Donation
(September 2011)*

*The LLI Newsletter is a product of the LLI Members Advisory Committee.
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